

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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## ***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Karen P. Hewitt***

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***For Immediate Release***

### **NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - January 14, 2008**

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt today announced the filing of a criminal complaint charging EDGARDO VILAS with possession of child pornography. According to court documents, VILAS is a teacher at Rancho Del Campo, Juvenile Court and Community School.

The complaint states that on or about January 11, 2008, EDGARDO VILAS possessed at least two images depicting a female minor's genital area. Agents with Immigration and Customs Enforcement became aware of VILAS after they discovered that VILAS had purchased access to at least one child pornography website.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Alessandra P. Serano, who is prosecuting the case, VILAS appeared today before United States Magistrate Judge Nita L. Stormes. The next court date is scheduled for January 17, 2008. The government sought detention based upon danger to the community.

This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide Department of Justice initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys' Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov).

**DEFENDANT**

EDGARDO VILAS

**Case Number: 08MJ0084**

**SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

Title 18, United States Code, Section and 2252(a)(4)(B) (Possession of Child Pornography)  
Maximum Penalty: 10 years' incarceration, \$250,000 fine, a minimum of 5 years and up to a lifetime of supervised release and registration as a sex offender.

**AGENCY**

Immigration and Customs Enforcement